Rs. 1 lakh has been made for the education of the deaf, dumb and the blind. Rs 5 lakhs is provided for a Polytechnic Institute to be attached to the University.

Village Uplift.

Government propose to amalgamate the Village Unions, the Village Panchayats and the Village Uplift Departments into one Department and to place it under the direction of one Officer with a view to working out a comprehensive plan of Rural Development. Including the unspent balances of the last 2 years, a total amount of Rs. 35·75 lakhs is proposed to be spent by the Rural Development department during the next year. An amount of Rs. 3·20 lakhs is made available for the Co-operative Department. The Department for the Uplift of Backward Communities will get a total of about Rs 4·28 lakhs as against Rs. 3·78 lakhs for 1123. We have thus Rs. 43·23 lakhs for Rural Development work in 1124.

Medical and Rural Sanitation.

For establishing a Medical College Rs. 10 lakhs has been set aside for expenditure next year as a first instalment. The prevention and control of malaria gets Rs 1·76 lakhs, tuberculosis Rs. 1·48 lakhs and Plague Rs. 50,000. Rs 7 lakhs is provided for giving improved diet to poor patients in hospitals as against 4·5 lakhs in 1123. Rs 2 lakhs is provided for acquisition of land and additional accommodation for hospitals and dispensaries. Rs 5 lakhs is provided for supplies of Medicine and surgical instruments. An additional special allotment of Rs. 50,000 has been made in the budget of the Ayurveda Department.

The Food Position.

The food position has been causing grave anxiety to Government. The country has just emerged from a serious threat of a breakdown in its rationing system. Government had to incur a loss of Rs. 96·28 lakhs till the end of 1122. This loss has considerably increased in 1123. This is mainly due to the raising of the pool price of imported rice from I Rupees 15-14-0 per maund to I. Rs 22-11-0 per maund, while the Government were selling it at I. Rs. 12-14-9 per maund. As this difference tended to increase the loss sustained by Government, they were constrained to enhance the rate to I. Rs. 16-3-2 per maund with effect from 25th Makaram 1123, so that the abnormal loss might be reduced a little. The rate had further to be enhanced to I. Rs. 21-7-7 per maund with effect from 6th Medom 1123 as the pool price fixed by the Government of India remained unaltered. The total estimated loss during the year 1123 on account of the subsidisation of the sale of rice is about Rs 200 lakhs. This loss is too heavy for the State to bear and the question of a food subsidy to the State from the Government of India has been earnestly taken up. But a decision on this matter is still awaited.

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